

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC General Information on the Demonstrations

EVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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DATE PREPARED 17 July 1953

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At 3 p.m. on 17 June 1953, a column of demonstrators was dispersed in Dessau by armored scout cars and Soviet troops. At 6 a.m. on 18 June, tank columns arrived from the direction of Rosslau. The tanks were employed in the protection of the SAG and VEB plants and the prison. Nine tanks, [REDACTED] and 6 armored scout cars, [REDACTED] were at Camp Gross Kuehnau. [REDACTED]
2. On 18 June, martial law was declared in Auerbach and, subsequently, in the entire uranium mining area. Vehicular traffic increased. The railroad stations were occupied by troops. The entire area was patrolled by Soviet soldiers and VP. There were no demonstrations. 2
3. [REDACTED] the troops employed in Halle, left. 3
4. [REDACTED] that, at 10:40 a.m. on 20 June, a troop train with tanks passed through Graefenroda, coming from the direction of Ohrdruf and proceeding toward Erfurt. 4 There were no demonstrations in Graefenroda on 16 June and the following days. Disturbances took place in Erfurt. Soviet troops were employed there.
5. Between 15 and 18 June, the Wilder Mann Kaserne in Dresden was occupied by at least 600 infantrymen, 65 motorcycles, 24 T-34 tanks, including [REDACTED] 12 armored personnel carriers; 9 three-axle armored scout cars, including [REDACTED] 5 x 25-mm AA guns, and an undetermined number of about 100-mm guns. The troops were employed in the breaking of the strike. The barracks installations were secured by six about 150-mm guns and eight AT guns. 5
6. Between 15 and 22 June, the Reuss Kaserne, Gera, was occupied by about 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epauletta with artillery or motor transport insignia. Motor vehicles [REDACTED] were seen en route to the installation. During the same period, the barracks installation in Tinz was occupied by about 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epauletts with tank insignia. Two tanks and SP guns were observed. At 7 a.m. on 17 June, demonstrations started in Gera. At about noon, the prison was stormed. At the same time, tanks and SP guns

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from the barracks installation in Tinz were employed. The Soviet fired over the heads of the demonstrators. On 22 June, martial law had not yet been lifted. The alcohol ban was lifted. Ranking officer of the post was Colonel Akchurin (sic). ⁶

7. At 7 a.m. on 17 June, construction workers from the Windmuehlen Strasse started the demonstrations in Leipzig. The police headquarters was stormed without success. All documents in the county court on Beethoven Strasse were destroyed. The railroad station guard detail was disarmed and the uniforms were burned. Boxes with small arms were also destroyed. The first employment of tanks was observed at the railroad station. An undetermined number of persons was killed or wounded. There was heavy firing at the police headquarters. Twelve JS tanks with numbers of the 2xx series, 3 other tanks, 3 armored scout cars and a command car were seen en route to the railroad station. On 19 June, there probably were disturbances in the Kirow plant, formerly Unruh and Liebig. Twenty tanks were coming from the direction of the plant in the afternoon. A total of between 40 and 100 persons were allegedly arrested in all enterprises. ⁷

1. Comment. The tanks, armored scout cars and trucks of the 6th Gds Tank Div seen in Camp Gross Kuehnau on 18 June do not definitely confirm the assumption that only elements of this division were employed in the suppression of the riots in the Dessau town area. Camp Gross Kuehnau serves as permanent quarters for units of the 7th Gds Tank Div.
2. Comment. The situation in Johannegeorgenstadt, Aue and Schwarzenberg was still normal on 17 June.
3. Comment. In the morning of 17 June, the first troop elements were employed in Halle. The observation on 19 June does not check with other information, according to which a troop train from Jueterbog arrived in Halle as late as 23 June. There is also the possibility that exchange of units took place about 20 June.
4. Comment. On 20 June, two tank shipments of the 65th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div were unloaded in Weimar. They may have returned to Weimar from Camp Crawlinkel via Graefenroda, Arnstadt, Neudietendorf and Erfurt.

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